

**NAVAL MEDICAL CENTER  
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA**

**CLINICAL CLERKSHIP DESCRIPTION**

**INFECTIOUS DISEASE DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL MEDICINE**

**LENGTH OF TIME:** Four weeks

**LOCATION:** The clinical clerkship will be served in the Infectious Diseases Division of the Internal Medicine Department at the Naval Medical Center, San Diego.

**GENERAL OBJECTIVES:** The primary goal of the infectious diseases rotation should be to obtain a thorough understanding and knowledge of the etiology, pathophysiology, diagnosis and management of the common infectious diseases. This should include not only bacterial diseases, but also viral, fungal, and parasitic diseases. The best way to accomplish this is to plan a thorough reading of the infectious diseases reading list (updated annually) which will provide an adequate foundation of infectious diseases knowledge for a general internist. Although there are several infectious diseases textbooks, the best of them are too long and too expensive for personal use during an infectious diseases rotation, except for people who have a particularly strong interest in this area. All three of the major ID texts are available in the resident's room for your use.

**EXPERIENCE:** The following general topics in infectious diseases will be covered during a one week outpatient experience and a three week inpatient experience.

a. Antibiotics: The uses, especially the unique uses, the spectrum of antibacterial activity, the contraindications, and the dose adjustments in renal or hepatic failure of the commonly used antibiotics.

b. Microbiology: Weekly microbiology rounds will be used to demonstrate basic microbiology techniques and concepts.

c. Most Likely Etiological Agent: In most clinical situations certain etiologic agents are highly likely and others are extremely rare. Knowledge of this information can help the clinician choose the most appropriate antimicrobial agent before the culture results or other identification is available.

d. Evaluation of the Febrile Patient: A systematic approach to such patients is most likely to uncover the etiology, while at the same time avoiding missing a diagnosis because a test has been inadvertently overlooked.

e. Infection Control and Surveillance/Isolation Rules: A basic knowledge of these principles, with a particular emphasis on how infections are spread within the hospital environment, is useful to the clinician both in evaluating epidemics, and in preventing patients from infecting other patients or hospital staff.

f. HIV infection: Management of acute illness as well as preventive healthcare maintenance in patients infected with HIV will be covered. Standard antiretroviral regimens will also be discussed during the outpatient week.

In order to help focus learning during the rotation, an electronic quiz will be used and must be completed by the end of the rotation.